There is sharp reduction in the gap between the urban and rural poverty ratio from 4.9% point in 1993-94 to 2.6% in 2004-05 (URP). This is due to a faster reduction in rural poverty ratio from 37.3 to 28.3.

(b) and (c) The major states where the decline in poverty ratio in rural areas were more than that of urban areas are Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala and West Bengal.

The decline in proportion of people below the poverty line (Poverty Ratio) in the above states is determined by a host of factors like growth of agricultural output, better implementation of anti poverty programmes, effect of over all growth of the economy in manufacturing and servicing sectors in these states.

(d) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission(JNNURM) was launched by the Honorable Prime Minister on 3rd December, 2005 for creating infrastructure and also to provide Basic Services for Urban Poor with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore for a 7-year period beginning 2005-06 Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) is being implemented in the 63 selected cities of the countries as a part of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The main thrust of the programme is on integrated development of slums through providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities to the urban poor. The other components of JNNURM, *i.e.* Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is being implemented in urban areas other than 63 mission Cities. With a view to provide training and gainful employment to the urban poor. Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is being implemented in the urban areas.

Stopping of age old Schemes

†3130. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have informed to stop schemes which are age old and have become irrelevant now;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes for the last five years; and

(c) the details of amount saved by way of abandonment of such schemes?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise. The Primary Purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan objectives and priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly.

Model Concession Agreement (MCA)

3131. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has reportedly formulated a Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for operation and maintenance of the National Highways through the public-private participation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating budgetary allocations made for the maintenance of highways during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has formulated a Model Concession Agreement for Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Operation and Maintenance of Highways as best practice reference document that can be suitably adapted and adopted by the Department of Road Transport & Highways, State governments and other agencies concerned.

(b) The PPP framework provided in the above stated MAC combines operation, maintenance and tolling into a single contract to be awarded for sufficiently long periods to competent private entities, selected through competitive bidding, so as to incentivise higher quality along with recovery of toll revenues, than is possible under separate maintenance and tolling contracts.

Currently, national highways are being maintained through normal contracts for repair etc. A total allocation of Rs. 814.38 crore (including an amount of Rs. 22.28 crore for the works under Border Road Development Board) for the year 2006-07 and a provision of Rs. 814.38 crore (including